

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /044 W
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R 140935Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9220

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINT TH
SUBJECT: LABOR STRIKE AT JUTE MILL

REF: BANGKOK 2183

1. RTG CONTINUES TO TAKE TOUGH ATTITUDE TOWARD LABOR UNREST. FOLLOWING SERIES OF WILDCAT ACTIONS IN LATE JANUARY, INTERNAL PEACE-KEEPING DIRECTOR ACM KAMON DECHATUNGKHA ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ANY STRIKE OR LOCK-OUT DURING MARTIAL LAW WOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED. (SEE REFTEL)

2. THE LATEST INCIDENT OF LABOR UNREST OCCURRED FEBRUARY 9-10 AT THE UNITED GRAIN JUTE MILL IN SAO HAI DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO BANGKOK PAPERS, FACTORY MANAGEMENT ORDERED A 30-MINUTE EXTENSION OF THREE WORKSHIFTS WITHOUT GIVING WORKERS ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION. IN RESPONSE 3,000 MILL WORKERS ORGANIZED A WILDCAT STRIKE ON FEBRUARY 9 AND SUBMITTED A LIST OF COUNTER-DEMANDS TO MANAGEMENT WHICH INCLUDED DEMANDS FOR: (1) RETURN TO THE FORMER WORKING HOURS, (2) A PAY INCREASE OF TWO BAHT (US 10 CENTS) PER DAY, AND (3) NO DISMISSAL OR LAYOFF OF STRIKE REPRESENTATIVES. REGIONAL POLICE QUICKLY INTERVENED BY SENDING A SPECIAL ACTION FORCE TO PROTECT PROPERTY, MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER

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AND ENCOURAGE EARLY SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE. THE STRIKE ENDED ON THE SECOND DAY WHEN MANAGEMENT RESCINDED THE NEW WORK SCHEDULE. ON FEBRUARY 11 POLICE ARRESTED TEN STRIKE LEADERS "ON CHARGES RANGING FROM ENDANGERING SOCIETY TO INSTIGATING UNREST".

3. COMMENT: RTG PLACES HIGH PRIORITY ON MAINTAINING LABOR

STABILITY AS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTING INVESTMENT BY BUSINESS
COMMUNITY AND FURTHERING OVERALL ECONOMIC GROWTH. IN
SHORT RUN, THIS APPARENTLY MEANS FAIRLY HEAVY-HANDED
SUPPRESSION OF LABOR DEMANDS.

WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TH, (KAMON DECHATUNGKHA)
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